



Rescue Coordination Center

Emergency Management Division
Washington Military Department

Background

Lessons learned from response operations in major disasters ranging from the eruption of Mount Saint Helens in Washington State to the earthquake in Northridge, California and the attack on the World Trade Center in New York, point to the need for the state to have the capability to coordinate massive search and rescue response operations during large-scale events.

The Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) is an extension of the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated in an emergency or disaster to support local search and rescue missions by coordinating the state, out-of-state, federal, and international search and rescue operations conducted in support of the incident.

Concept

Following a catastrophic earthquake, volcanic eruption, tsunami, or other natural or human caused disaster, the Emergency Management Division may activate the RCC in support of local government to coordinate the extensive search and rescue (SAR) resources required by the scope of the disaster. As an extension of the state EOC, the RCC may be co-located or deployed to a location in proximity to the incident site. The Washington National Guard and other state agencies, as required, provide personnel and equipment to staff and operate the state RCC. Requests for assistance from the jurisdiction(s) affected by the disaster will be received, processed, and prioritized. The RCC will coordinate the reception, staging, and preparations for employment, and deployment to the scene of all state, out-of-state, and federal search and rescue resources responding to the disaster.

Contact

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